

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 L-03 PER-01 /022 W

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R 250310Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2695

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR MU

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF FAA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: (A) MUSCAT 1299; (B) STATE 254947

1. SALIM BIN NASSIR, DGCA AND CURRENTLY ACTING MINISTER COMMUNICATIONS, CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR NOV 24 THAT HE PLANS TO FUND FAA SERVICES BEYOND JUNE 1977. THOUGH HE SAID VERY FRANKLY THAT HE FINDS FAA PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES AGONIZINGLY SLOW, AND IN UTTER CONTRAST TO SPEED WITH WHICH HE OBTAINS EXPERTS (AT MUCH LOWER COST) FROM SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS PANAM, UNDP AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT CIVIL AIR AUTHORITY, HE STILL BELIEVES IT BEST FOR OMAN'S CIVAIR DEVELOPMENT TO RETAIN A JUDICIOUS MIX OF PERSONNEL INCLUDING FAA. DGCA ALSO CONFIRMED HIS SATISFACTION WITH PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES OF CAAG PERSONNEL TO DATE, SAID BEISIEGEL (ONLY CAAG MEMBER PRESENTLY ON BOARD) IS WORKING EXTREMELY HARD AND WELL, AND SAID HE IS ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE BIO DATA ON CAKARNIS AND SMITH REPLACEMENTS. IN SAME CONVERSATION, DGCA TURNED DOWN INFORMAL PROPOSAL PUT TO HIM BY AMBASSADOR AT CAAG SUGGESTION OF POSSIBLE UTILITY OF AIR TRAFFICCONTROL SPECIALIST IN LIEU OF AIRMAN LICENSING SPECIALIST.

2. REQUEST URGENT ACTION TO:

A. PREPARE AND SEND EMBASSY FOR PRESENTATION TO DGCA AMENDED BUDGET ANNEX (REFTEL PARA 2).

B. SELECT CAKARNIS REPLACEMENT AND FORWARD BIO DATA FOR DGCA
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APPROVAL (REFTEL PARA 3).

C. SUBMIT BIO DATA ON SMITH REPLACEMENT (REFTEL PARA 4).

3. COMMENT: CLEARLY SALIM BIN NASSIR RESPECTS AND WANTS
FAA PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, THOUGH HE IS COMPLETELY AT LOSS
TO COMPREHEND WHY USG SEEM TO BE SO MUCH SLOWER THAN ANONE
ELSE IN PUTTING SUITABLE PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD. WE MAY
BE REACHING POINT WHERE LATTER PROBLEM BECOMES SO OVERWHELMING
THAT WE MUST CONSIDER WHETHER CONTINUATION FAA AGREEMENT WILL
BECOME COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. EMBASY THEREFORE URGES EVERY POSSIBLE
EFFORT BE MADE TO SPEED UP RECRUITMENT PROCESSES THESE TWO VACANT
SLOTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE DRAW ATTENTION TO FOLLOWING RE-
COMMENDATION IN RECENT DRAFT FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION REPORT:
"NEA/ARP IN CONSULTATION WITH DG/PER/CA/NEA SHOULD COUNSEL FAA
ON THE SELECTION OF PERSONNEL FOR ASSIGNMENT TO OMAN AND SHOULD
PARTICIPATE IN THE ORIENTATION OF THOSE PERSONNEL PRIOR TO
DEPARTURE FOR OMAN. EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE RELATIVELY
SPARTAN LIVING CIRCUMSTANCES THEY CAN EXPECT IN OMAN AND THE
RATHER RESTRICTIVE BEHAVIOR PATTERN THEY MUST BE PREPARED TO
ACCEPT."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MUSCAT01463
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760438-1226
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761115/aaaaamel.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MUSCAT 1299, 76 STATE 254947
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUTURE OF FAA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
TAGS: EAIR, MU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006